

*REMARKS*

In response to the Official Action mailed January 23, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request continued examination in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

The Examiner objected to the abstract and made a correlative rejection of the claims, based upon 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, again asserting that words in claim 1, which appear in a different form in the abstract, are "vague, indefinite, and/or awkwardly and confusingly worded". While the Examiner's position is understood, it is not consistent with the view of the vast majority of the Examining Corps of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Nevertheless, in an attempt to move the prosecution to conclusion, claim 1 is amended and a similar amendment is made to the abstract to recite what is apparent from the claim as examined as well as the disclosure of the patent application.

In the claimed process, a curable film is applied to an article including holes. A part of the curable film is cured and the part of the film that is not cured is removed. The part of the film that is not cured remains in the same state that it was in initially and, therefore, it is the same curable resin that was applied in the second step of claim 1. The cured thin film is a product of part of the curable resin, as is apparent from the claim and the disclosure. Presumably, the Examiner is not taking the view that the disclosure is not enabling with respect to depositing a curable film, curing only a part of the film, and removing a part of the film that has not been cured. If the Examiner is of that view, his attention is directed to page 11, line 17-24 and page 19, lines 13-16 of the patent application. This disclosure fully supports the claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections as to form and the objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

In addition to the amendments to claim 1 in response to the rejection as to form, a paragraph is added at the end of the claim describing the filling of the via holes with an electrically conducting material, thereby producing vias. With respect to the figures of the patent application, attention is directed to the step ST7 in Figure 1 and the description from page 11, line 25 through page 12, line 3 and page 20, line 25 through page 21, line 4, for example, as supporting this amendment.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Chun (U.S. Patent 6,484,058) and claims 2, 3, and 6 were rejected as unpatentable over Chun in view of one or both of Rokugawa (U.S. Patent 6,434,819) and Tomlin et al. (U.S. Patent 5,773,546). These rejections are all respectfully traversed.

The present application is based upon a Japanese patent application filed on March 31, 2000. The effective date of Chun is its filing date, October 4, 2000, six months after the

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filing date of the priority patent application. Upon perfection of the priority claim, Chun will be removed as prior art and the prior art rejections cannot be maintained. Applicants do not waive the right to remove Chun as a reference in the future. As this time, Applicants elect to demonstrate that the claims are patentable over Chun.

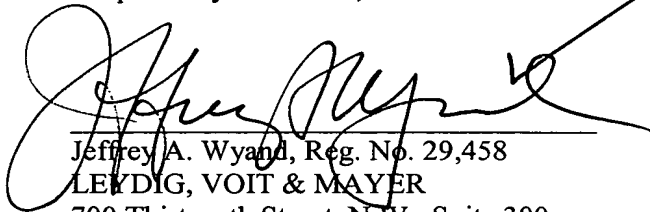
As described above with respect to the amendment of claim 1, the process described for forming a multi-layered wiring board includes not only forming holes of reduced cross-sectional area and dimension by the process formerly claimed, but also by filling the resulting via holes, the holes having reduced dimensions, with an electrical conductor to produce vias. Clearly, Chun cannot anticipate claim 1 or any other pending claim unless Chun describes every element of claim 1. It is apparent, from an inspection of Figure 2 of Chun, as well as the other two figures of Chun, that no process is described there of filling the openings, after removal of the PMMA 18, with an electrically conducting material. Accordingly, Chun cannot anticipate claim 1 and the rejection of claim 1 cannot be properly maintained.

It is apparent that the rejections of each of the remaining claims as unpatentable over Chun in view of either Rokugawa or Rokugawa in combination with Tomlin cannot be maintained because Chun does not anticipate claim 1.

Upon allowance of 1, the Examiner is required, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141 to rejoin to the prosecution at least claims 4, 5, and 7-9, since claim 1 is clearly generic as to those claims. Further, since claim 10 refers to and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is also generic as to claim 10 and claim 10 should also be rejoined to the prosecution.

Since the foregoing Amendment clearly overcomes the prior art rejection and places the application in form for allowance, allowance of all pending claims is appropriate and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAW/tph